

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 73-75, 77-79 and 81 are pending. Claims 73, 77 and 81, which are independent, are hereby amended. Claims 1-72, 76, 80 and 82-88 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at paragraph [0038]-[0041].

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 73-75, 77-79, and 81 were rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 73, 77 and 81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,134,496 to Schwab et al. (hereinafter, merely “Schwab”). Claims 74, 75, 78 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Schwab in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,579,120 to Oguro (hereinafter, merely “Oguro”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claims 73, 77 and 81 have been amended, thereby obviating the 112 issue.

Claim 73 recites, *inter alia*:

“...wherein the **identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data**; and

sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data.” (Emphasis added)

Applicants submit that the recited claim language of claim 73 “...wherein the identification signal includes noise-like bits that have identification information at a certain time width that compulsorily sets the least significant bits (LSBs) of an arbitrary number of samples of the video signal and/or audio signal as main data; and sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data” enables enhanced copyright protection since the identification signal is added as the information of “0” or “1” to the signal itself. Thus, the identification signal cannot be easily modified, which is highly useful for copying prohibition. (See Specification par. [0122], lines 1-3).

As understood by Applicants, Schwab relates to bilateral anti-copying device for video systems. Schwab discloses that “in the preferred embodiment, there are two legal regions in which the leading and trailing code sequences may be inserted” (col. 4, lines 65-68). However Schwab does not teach or suggest “**sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data**” as recited in independent claim 73.

Oguro is directed to copyright protection for digital signal recording and reproduction. Oguro discloses that “a copyright protection signal inserted in a portion of a
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recording medium other than a portion where an actual image of an image signal is recorded...”
(col. 3, lines 15-20). However Oguro does not teach or suggest “sequentially embedding the identification signal into the main data” as recited in independent claim 73.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Schwab or Oguro, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 73.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 73 is patentable.

Independent claims 77 and 81 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

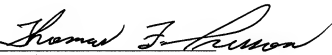
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment,
to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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